

WASHINGTON, DC- Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) announced that a total of \$699,600 has been awarded to the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission. Funding was released through the US Department of Labor made available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the recent YouthBuild competitive grant process.

“YouthBuild is a fantastic program in Fresno County to help the at-risk young men and women earn a high school diploma and skills for their future,” said Costa. “We can’t ever go wrong with investing in our children, and I know Fresno County will use this money wisely.”

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) included \$47 million for the YouthBuild program. YouthBuild Grants are used to provide disadvantaged youth with the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in high demand and postsecondary education and training opportunities; opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities; and opportunities to develop employment and leadership skills and a commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities.

YouthBuild grantees will tap the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth to increase the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families and to help youth develop the leadership, learning, and high-demand occupational skills needed to succeed in today's global economy.